The Office of Marine and Estuarine Protection (OMEP) document, entitled <u>Federal</u> <u>Financial Assistance Programs: Targeting Programs Applicable to Coastal</u> <u>Management</u>

## B. 2. Criteria for Program Selection

Criteria were developed to identify the Federal programs with significant potential to affect the A/P system. The following general criteria were identified first:

- Program association with water quality problems in the A/P region (identified in the A/P Source Document [NC DNRCD 1987] and the Trends Assessment [Copeland et al. 1989])
- Typical "red flag" activities (e.g., hazardous waste handling, electrical utility siting)
- · Program funding and prevalence in the A/P region
- Program or project size

Based upon the general criteria, and concerns expressed in the A/P Source Document, program categories deserving particular attention were identified. Ideally, the selection criteria would reflect the goals and purposes of the CCMP. The CCMP will not be drafted until 1991, however, so criteria are based upon concerns depicted in the A/P Source Document. These concerns are expected to be addressed in the CCMP goals and policies. Program selection for the comprehensive list focused on the following categories: (1) fishery programs, (2) agricultural programs, and (3) development programs.

<u>Fishery production, protection, and management programs</u>. Declining fisheries are a dominant concern in the A/P Source Document. Programs that address fishery problems through education, research, or management planning will probably further the CCMP goals.

Agricultural programs. Agriculture, the largest industry in the A/P region, has been implicated as a source of (1) nutrient loading, (2) increased freshwater peak flows into saline nursery areas, (3) degradation of water bodies from sedimentation, and (4) bacterial contamination in shellfish areas (Copeland et al. 1989). Federal assistance programs aimed at stabilizing soil erosion, implementing Best Management Practices, and improving water management on farms have potential to further the estuarine protection goals of the CCMP. However, agricultural programs that encourage drainage and wetlands conversion projects may conflict with the CCMP.

<u>Development and infrastructure programs</u>. Federal assistance for infrastructure (e.g., highway construction and wastewater treatment plant construction) directly and indirectly affects